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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA CALLS FOR CLEAR FIREWALL TO KEEP DATA PROTECTED

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna submitted a letter today to Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees calling for the state to examine a strong approach to ensuring all student-level data remains secure.

“In recent months, the Idaho State Department of Education has fielded many questions related to data collection in education. As the state moves toward higher academic standards in mathematics and English language arts, some have tried to make a connection between our transition to these new standards and data collection. We all know this is not the case. The two are completely unrelated. However, many individuals have raised concerns about data collection that are valid and should be taken seriously,” Superintendent Luna said in the letter. “As State Superintendent, a father, a grandfather, and a strong conservative, I believe we must always remain vigilant in how we protect and maintain the data we collect in our public education system.”

He continued, “I believe we have laws in place in Idaho today that are working to protect every student, but the revelation in recent months regarding the National Security Agency and its monitoring of phone data should give every U.S. citizen pause. It certainly has given me pause.”

As Superintendent Luna has traveled across Idaho attending community meetings and forums this year, he heard concerns from many parents and patrons regarding student data. Most believe data is secure today, but want to make sure it remains protected in the future. To address these concerns, Superintendent Luna has asked Governor Otter to issue an executive order that will create a firewall that clearly protects and secures individual, student-level data at the state level from any federal intrusion now or in the future.

“Today, I strongly believe our data is secure and protected, but we must be vigilant and put laws and policies in place that will ensure our data is secure not just today, but in the future,” Superintendent Luna said.

The full text of Superintendent Luna’s letter is attached.

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